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THE DEATH OF LADY ALLARDYCE

THE name of Constance Allardyce, wife of Sir William Allardyce, governor of the Bahama Islands, will not go unrecorded in the annals of science. Before appointment to the Bahamas and after eight years of diplomatic service in the Fiji Islands, Sir William Allardyce was governor of the Falkland Islands and it was during their eleven years on this station that Mrs. Allardyce (as she then was) showed her helpful interest in scientific undertakings. The writer gratefully recalls her enthusiastic aid in assembling the fossils of the rich and remarkable Devonian fauna of the islands when there was no one else to help and where there was no notion of what was wanted. Responding to an appeal for aid made to the governor, she took up the search, diligently acquainted herself with what was to be looked for, aroused the curiosity and interest of the people of the nearer and farther islands even to the shepherds scattered over those seventy-five bits of archipelago, established collecting stations here and there among them and so brought together scientific material of great worth. She kept alive this interest during the years of her residence, extended it into other lines and eventually established the Falkland Islands Museum at Stanley, the southernmost museum of the world and probably the most remote scientific outpost of the British Empire. It may be well said that the collections gathered by Mrs. Allardyce are the basis of pretty much all that we know to-day of the ancient life of those islands and her name and services have been permanently interwoven in the geological story of the Falkland Islands.

JOHN M. CLARKE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GIFT TO THE MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Two hundred thousand dollars have been given by Miss Annie M. Alexander to the University of California for the permanent support of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Dr. Joseph Grinnell, associate

professor of zoology and director of the museum makes the following statement:

The work of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology was formally inaugurated on March 23, 1908, when Miss Annie M. Alexander, then of Oakland, upon her own initiative entered into an agreement with the university by which she promised support for a period of seven years. It has now been nearly twelve years since the museum was thus founded by Miss Alexander, and she has continued her support in increasing measure, until now, by her endowment, the continuance of the museum is insured for all time.

The collections of the museum comprise at the present time a total of 70,833 specimens, consisting of 30,519 mammals, 31,347 birds, 1,804 birds' nests and eggs, 7,163 reptiles and amphibians. In addition there are some 17,000 privately owned specimens in the various groups, on deposit here. All of this material is freely available for study by any responsible natural history student, here and elsewhere. A system of loaning is in operation by which series of specimens are sent to any investigator wherever he may be located. The value of the museum's possessions in the way of specimens and facts can not help but increase in direct ratio to the extent in which these are used. The free loaning of material in vogue does away with any grounds for the complaint sometimes made against museums, that they are merely "cold storage" institutions whose aims are only to gather and hoard. A total of 9,713 specimens has been loaned, during the past eleven years, to 128 different institutions or individuals. Investigators in Washington City alone have had sent to them for examination 2,642 of the museum's mammals and birds.

The staff of the museum at the present time consists of Dr. Joseph Grinnell, director; Harry S. Swarth, curator of birds; J. Eugene Law, curator in osteology; Tracy I. Storer, field naturalist; Joseph Dixon, economic mammalogist; Harold C. Bryant, economic ornithologist; Margaret W. Wythe, general assistant, and Richard Hunt, assistant curator of birds.

LOSS OF GEOLOGISTS BY THE NATIONAL SURVEY

In his annual report the director of the United States Geological Survey writes: